

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 573

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 2416 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 573, as amended, Lieu. Vehicles: emergency vehicles.

Existing law authorizes the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to issue authorized emergency vehicle permits for specified vehicles, and then only upon a finding in each case that the vehicle is used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property or for the apprehension of law violators.

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to emergency vehicle responses across multiple jurisdictions~~ authorize the issuance of an emergency vehicle permit to a vehicle owned and operated by a hospital designated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services as a disaster resource center hospital, that is used exclusively to transport mass-casualty decontamination apparatus medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene of an emergency, as specified.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Los Angeles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. Section 2416 of the Vehicle Code is amended to*
2 *read:*

3 2416. (a) The Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol
4 may issue authorized emergency vehicle permits only for the
5 following vehicles, and then only upon a finding in each case that
6 the vehicle is used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law
7 enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property
8 or for the apprehension of law violators:

9 (1) Any vehicle maintained in whole or in part by the state, a
10 county or a city and privately owned and operated by a marshal,
11 deputy marshal, or person who is a member of, and who receives
12 salary from, and is regularly employed by, a police department or
13 sheriff's department, ~~provided if~~ the state, county or city does not
14 furnish to that person a publicly owned authorized emergency
15 vehicle.

16 (2) Any vehicle owned and operated by a public utility, used
17 primarily to accomplish emergency repairs to utility facilities or
18 used primarily by railroad police officers, who are commissioned
19 by the Governor, in the performance of their duties.

20 (3) Firefighting or rescue equipment designed and operated
21 exclusively as such.

22 (4) Any vehicle operated by the chief, assistant chief, or one
23 other uniformed person designated by the chief of a fire department
24 organized as provided in the Health and Safety Code or the
25 Government Code or pursuant to special act of the Legislature.

26 (5) Any vehicle of an air pollution control district used to
27 enforce provisions of law relating to air pollution from motor
28 vehicles.

29 (6) Any vehicle operated by the chief of any fire department
30 established on any base of the armed forces of the United States.

31 (7) Any vehicle owned and operated by any fire company
32 organized pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 14825)
33 of the Health and Safety Code.

34 (8) Privately owned ambulances licensed pursuant to Chapter
35 2.5 (commencing with Section 2500).

36 (9) Vehicles other than privately owned ambulances used by
37 privately owned ambulance operators exclusively to transport
38 medical supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene

1 of an emergency when a request for medical supplies, lifesaving
2 equipment, or personnel has been made by any person or public
3 agency responsible for providing emergency medical
4 transportation. These vehicles shall display a sign or lettering not
5 less than two and one-half inches in height, in a color providing a
6 sharp contrast to its background, on each side showing the name
7 of the ambulance operator.

8 (10) Any vehicle owned and operated by an office or department
9 of a city, county, or district—~~which~~ *that* is designated by an
10 ordinance adopted by the governing body of that local agency as
11 a hazardous materials response team vehicle for response to
12 hazardous materials emergencies.

13 *(11) Any vehicle owned and operated by a hospital designated*
14 *by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services as a*
15 *disaster resource center hospital, that is used exclusively to*
16 *transport mass-casualty decontamination apparatus medical*
17 *supplies, lifesaving equipment, or personnel to the scene of an*
18 *emergency, at the request of a fire department or law enforcement*
19 *agency, a hospital incident management team, the Los Angeles*
20 *County Emergency Medical Service Agency, or any other public*
21 *agency responsible for providing local emergency services. The*
22 *hospital responsible for operating the vehicle pursuant to this*
23 *paragraph shall maintain insurance coverage for the vehicle in*
24 *accordance with the financial responsibility provisions of Division*
25 *7 (commencing with Section 16000).*

26 (b) The commissioner may adopt and enforce regulations to
27 implement this section.

28 (c) Violation of any regulation adopted by the commissioner
29 pursuant to this section is a misdemeanor.

30 *SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law*
31 *is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable*
32 *within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California*
33 *Constitution because of the unique circumstances in the County*
34 *of Los Angeles relative to its disaster resource center program,*
35 *which is coordinated by the Los Angeles County Emergency*
36 *Medical Services Agency and funded through federal grants.*

37 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
38 ~~legislation relating to emergency vehicle responses across multiple~~
39 ~~jurisdictions.~~

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